GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:206
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to persuade the international community to adopt stringent measures and cooperate in curbing illegal wildlife trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking proactive and strong measures to prevent such incidents in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to give any special package for the staff forest guards, besides wireless sets, cell phones and vehicles; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 206 FOR REPLY ON 7.8.2006 REGARDING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The issue of trans boundary illegal trade of wildlife had been taken up by this Ministry at various meetings of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),to which India is a signatory and in the meetings with Government officials from China and Nepal.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken to control poaching and illegal trade of wildlife:

(i) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(v) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for infrastructure development, setting up of anti-poaching camps, purchase of wireless sets, vehicles, fire arms etc.

(vi) India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(e)&(f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, an allowance is given to the field staff posted in Tiger Reserves only. For other staff, there is no proposal to give special package by this Ministry.